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Het Vrije Volk

## SPECULATION ON BERIYA'S FALL FROM POWER

Comment: Portions of a "secret" report on the fall of Beriya originally published in the Antwerp Volksgazet by Camille Huysmans were reprinted by the Amsterdam Social Democrat daily Het Vrije Volk on 23 September 1953. Huysmans explains in a note that the report was forwarded to him by contacts he has maintained in the Russian government since the days when he was secretary of the old Socialist International. The report had been prepared several weeks before it appeared in the Volksgazet. A summary of the portions reprinted by Het Vrije Volk follows

According to reliable sources, Beriya was arrested on 25 June 1953 at a meeting of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Beriya hed planned to stablize the regime by making important concessions to the masses of workers and peasants and by granting certain rights to the various Soviet republics. Accordingly, he had initiated a severe purge of the Ministries of Internal Affairs and State Security.

He had felt certain that he could count on the compliance and loyalty of Malenkov. His fall was a result of this illusion and of his own impetuousness.

The  $\sqrt{\text{Russian}}$  writers of the report feel that the conciliatory policy ended with Beriya's fall.

It is said that Beriya had gone to the meeting without having taken any precautions to assure his own safety, although he knew that the meeting would be highly critical of his latest rurge. Molotov and Bulganin accused Beriya of planning a coup d'etat and of conspiring to assassinate Malenkov. When Malenkov and Mikoyan joined forces with the accusers, Beriya, who had counted on their support, lost his composure and is said to have fired his gun in Malenkov's direction.

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At this point Beriya was disarmed and turned over to Kruglov, who obviously was in on the plot against Beriya and had been waiting in an adjoining room together with several members of the secret police.

At present, only the Army and its General Staff enjoy complete security in the country. It is felt that Malenkov will eventually fall too, since he is expected to follow Beriya's example and try to oppose the Molotov-Bulganin group, which is supported by the Army.

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